United Nations ST/IC/2000/7

Secretariat

2 March 2000

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **United States Census**

1. The Secretary-General has received from the United States Mission to the United Nations a note verbale dated 24 January 2000 indicating that a census shall be taken by the United States Census Bureau to count all persons who have a usual residence in the United States.

2. According to the note, between 13 and 15 March, the Census Bureau will send a questionnaire to all households in the United States, including the residences of the members of the United Nations diplomatic community. Participation in the census is not dependent upon visa status, but on whether the person lives in the United States. Participation of the diplomatic community is thus not compulsory, but is encouraged.

3. Staff members serving at levels below that of assistant secretary-general whose duty station is New York are encouraged to participate by filling in the questionnaire. Staff members serving at the level of assistant secretary-general and above who are assimilated into the diplomatic community are also encouraged to participate.

4. A copy of the note verbale from the United States Mission is set out in the annex to the present circular.

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 July 2000.

00-32405 (E) 080300

Annex

Note verbale dated 24 January 2000 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the permanent missions and permanent observer offices to the United Nations and to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to inform them that, in accordance with a requirement of the United States Constitution, a census must be taken every 10 years in the United States. The purpose of the census is to count all of the persons who have a "usual residence" (the place where a person lives and sleeps most of the time) in the United States without regard to a person's legal status or citizenship.

Between 13 and 15 March, the Census Bureau will send a questionnaire to all households in the United States, including the residences of the members of the United Nations diplomatic community. While participation on the part of the diplomatic community in the census is voluntary, the United States Mission encourages all members to participate so that the count will be as accurate and complete as possible. All information provided in response to the Census Bureau's requests for information is confidential, in accordance with United States law (13 United States Code 9).

In the normal course of administering the census, the Census Bureau will follow up with all households in the United States from which it has not received a response. The period of follow-up is from 27 April to 7 July. Members of the United Nations diplomatic community who have not responded may receive a follow-up phone call or a visit from a census taker. Guidance to the diplomatic community with respect to the follow-up is the same as that given above; that is, participation by members of the diplomatic community is encouraged, but it is voluntary.